

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Declassification authority
derived from FBI Automatic
Declassification Guide,
issued May 24, 2007

Screened by NARA (RD-F)
07-03-2019 FOIA # 61698
DOCID: 31146436

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/4/75

FROM : SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-1993) (C)

SUBJECT: AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION
(ALA)
EM; IS - AFRICA

Re Bureau teletype to Chicago and San Antonio dated 3/19/75; and Chicago nitel dated 3/21/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 8 copies and for Chicago 1 copy of an LHM, a copy being furnished to Chicago because of DENNIS BRUTUS.

Source mentioned volunteered the information appearing in instant LHM.

There is no information to warrant a preliminary inquiry of captioned organization.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

Classified by ~~SP08TA/CA~~
Declassify on: OADB 10/24/85
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CLASSIFIED BY ~~2133204/2133204~~ REC-28
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1

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EX 104

ENCLOSURE

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
 - 1 - Chicago (Info) (157-10668) (Enc. 1)
 - 1 - San Antonio
- HWR:mwc
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5010-108-02

58 APR 23 1975

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

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NONSYMBOL SOURCE ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

The confidential source mentioned is

170012
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Antonio, Texas

April 4, 1975

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

The March 17, 1975 issue of The Rag (a characterization of which is contained in the appendix hereto) contained an article which was written with the assistance of "Dennis Brutus, chairperson of the African Literature Conference."

The article states that "well known poets and authors" will meet at Austin this week to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the Sharpeville South African Massacre. The article lists ~~Ousmene Sembene~~, ~~Ezekiel Mphahlele~~, ~~Chinua Achebe~~, ~~Dennis Brutus~~, ~~Wayle Soyinka~~, ~~Mazisi Kunene~~, ~~Ali Mazuri~~, ~~Oswald Mtshali~~, and ~~Wally Serote~~, who are described as "a group of Africa's leading creative artists and scholars" as speakers during the Symposium on South African Literature, March 20 - 22.

TEXAS

Dennis V. Brutus

The article includes two poems by Brutus including one which is a tribute to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) based on the speech of Yassir Arafat to the United Nations General Assembly.

The March 19, 1975 issue of the Daily Texan, a student newspaper at the University of Texas, Austin, Texas (UTAT) contained an article headlined, "Seminar Features African Writers" which is concerned with a symposium on South African Literature commencing on Thursday. The article states that over 100 writers and scholars from the United States and abroad are expected to attend.

Speakers for Thursday are listed as Mazisi Kunene, a Zulu poet and playwright, and Cosmos Pieterse. Additionally films by Sembene Ousmane, a French-African film maker will be shown.

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ENCLOSURE

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AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

The March 20, 1975 issue of the Daily Texan, supra, contains two articles in reference to the conference:

One article is a "Guest Viewpoint" headlined "Rally to protest South African racism." The article is written by a member of the Committee to Oppose Racism and Apartheid (a student organization at the UTAT). The article concerns itself with the Sharpeville Massacre and the development of South Africa since that date. The article concludes with an announcement of a rally on Thursday to be held on the UTAT campus and an invitation to the conference guests to attend.

The other article, headlined "African Poets to Speak," 'Symposium Features Seminars, Films,' contains a schedule of seminars and tentatively scheduled speakers.

In reference to Kunene, supra, the article states that he now resides in London, after being exiled from South Africa because of anti-apartheid writings.

Another speaker is Ezekiel Mphahlele who was exiled in 1957 for his anti-apartheid beliefs. He is described as a novelist, essayist, autobiographer and founder of Chemchemi, a cultural institution in Kenya for writers and artists.

Other speakers listed are Oswald Mtshali, Mongane Wally Serote, Keorapetse Kgositse, and Dr. Dennis Brutus.

Saturday's speaker is listed as ~~Cosmo Pieterse~~. Texas

The article states that the inaugural meeting of the African Literature Association (ALA) will be held Saturday and that it was formed at an African Studies Conference held in Chicago in November, 1974.

The March 21, 1975 issue of the Daily Texan, supra, contains an article headlined, "Rally Focuses on Apartheid," "South Africans Commemorate Sharpeville Massacre." This article contained a commentary concerning the Sharpeville Massacre on March 20, 1960. Following the commentary on the massacre, Dennis Brutus spoke briefly concerning the

AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

lack of American capital in South Africa which he alleged was withdrawn by American corporations in fear of a black take-over. Brutus is quoted as follows: "We are committed to freedom. We are asking you to join us by waging a struggle in this country, just as we must wage the struggle in ours."

Oswald Mtshali spoke at the rally and stated, "You cannot be free while another part of the human race is still living in bondage. Every person must be the master of his own fate."

~~Pitika P. Ntula.~~ Another speaker at the rally was the African sculptor Texas

The article states that on Friday evening Brutus, Ntula, Mtshali, Cecil Abraham, a professor at Bishop University in Canada, and other South African artists will take part in poetry reading. Texas

In addition, the University of Texas News and Information Service issued other press releases.

One press release stated that KUT-FM, the University of Texas public radio station would broadcast sessions of the symposium on contemporary South African literature. A second release listed the films to be shown.

Another press release lists the publications which would be given to persons who paid the registration fee at the conference.

The 1974-1975 Faculty-Staff Directory, UTAT, lists Dennis V. Brutus as visiting professor of English with an address of 18 Hilton Avenue.

On March 24, 1975, a source advised that Dr. Dennis Brutus was the primary organizer of the conference. He is a visiting professor from Northwestern University. He has traveled to China. Source stated that Dr. Brutus is attempting to obtain an H-1 visa and is currently out of status at the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

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The March 31, 1975 issue of The Rag, supra, contained an article reviewing the two movies shown during the conference. The article also contained a portion of the statement of Chinua Achebe during one of the sessions of the conference.

Achebe stated in part:

"But South Africa is like a cancer that does not respond to treatment! A colony of the West, like other colonies which grew on the body of the continent and have now been cut out. The day is coming for the big operation

"You have it here as we did: among writers and progressive youth one could find the word 'commitment' used as a cliché. Here it is "leftist" or "progressive" or "underground" perhaps. In the story "The Beautiful Ones," one of people says "I am committed to social change." I try to see how empty that phrase is.

"Committed to what? What social change does one mean? Concentration on details of reform programs while genocide goes on in the society as a whole?

"At worst, such phrases hide their opposites. Hatred, power-hunger, opportunism and oppression can be called "liberal" or "progressive" or anything."

APPENDIX

THE RAG (self described)

The Rag is put out by the collective efforts of about a dozen people each week - not always the same dozen...

Our ideologies vary, but we are all committed to helping increase the power of individuals to control their own lives and to reach out to help and touch each other. We feel a community newspaper is an important tool in that effort...

Something else that ought to be said about The Rag is that it is, in intention, a community newspaper.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO)

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was established in 1964 and acts as a coordinating body for most of the Palestinian fedayeen groups. The Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) is its military arm and the Palestine Liberation Forces (PLF) is its commando arm.

APPENDIX

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